My dear Marcia Rome Jan 3d. 1872

I am happily again able to send you enclosed the £10 as usual & long may I be able to do so I pray to God, for it is for you that I most hope to retain my Consulate

As yet I hear nothing more & my communications with the F. O. go on just the same as ever - It may be that Ld G. seeing the great & warm support I have had from the Public in the Newspapers has relented & left me in peace - Also here Sir A. Paget our minister returned my visit & his politic & as he so recently returned from London & must have talked with Ld G.; so I may hope that they have agreed to let me be in quiet

I am glad to tell you that I am well in health & spirits, not able to go on much with my painting with such interruptions but yet I am able to go out to dine & return without fatigue - but my ev. clothes are too small somewhat that is I detest tight clothes - To day I go to my 4th dinner party - but just now

we are in a mess as the Cabs have come to a
strike - & was the fare to any part of Rome
within the walls but the Govt is reducing it
to 6. — I walk out as far as I am able 3
& 4 miles & then return in a Cab - this
suits me well but until the cabmen resume
I cannot do it any longer

Our Winter is very cold still by fine & clear
& suffer from cold hands - I hope this will
find you comfortable, as you are so near to
Tom & his dear ones

In my large house I receive the society of
antiquarians & often take a part & speak in
which they say I show skill -

I hear pleasantly from my dear children
& the new bride Joan has most kindly offered
me a home at Denmark Hill in case I am left
penniless - Also here a Peerage has made me
the same kind offer, but I hope to remain as
I am for at my age change is dreadful

Your loving brother Joe

some little difficulty Temporally on the part of my children as regards your pension, but I do not doubt their goodness as I have done so much for them in making them all better than myself

Poor dear Maria I know this letter will cost you some tears for we have always been brother & sister in real & constant love & I am sure you'll always find me like myself & not like my circumstances

Walter in his 1st letter when he heard that my Consulate was to be abolished, assured me he was glad as he was certain I stood in great need of repose - but he did not know about my scanty pension

Altogether I think you may cull out some pleasure from this letter, that I am settled again in content, that I am at my painting with good sight, steady hand (tho out of drawing) & good house rent free

What next may chance to happen I am unable to say

your loving Joe